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THE  
RURAL DISTRICT OF ELY

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1940

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BY  
J. F. DAWSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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T H E  
R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   O F   E L Y

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A N N U A L

R E P O R T

for the year

1 9 4 0

by

J. F. D A W S O N

M. B., Ch.B., D. P. H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L   O F   E L Y .

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR 1940.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report on the  
health of your district.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.F.DAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F .

Medical Officer of Health :-	J.F.DAWSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector :-	A. Cross. Cert. R.S.I.
Sanitary Inspector :- (now on active Service)	A. H. Eagle. A.R.San.I. Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.





## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	.....	.....	.....	66,082
Resident Population (Registrar General's estimate 1940)				13,970
Number of inhabited houses	.....	.....		3,101
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	£31,967
Amount represented by ld rate	.....	.....		£135

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births. Legitimate	184	88.	96.	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1940 - 13.45.
Illegitimate	4	2.	2.	
Stillbirths	8	5.	3.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births - 40.81.
Deaths	187	93.	94.	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population - 13.38.

Deaths from Puerperal causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.	41.88
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.64
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	250

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	30
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

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### LABORATORY FACILITIES:-

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory examine bacteriological specimens submitted for examination.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES:-

Infectious cases are removed to Hospital in the Ely Isolation Ambulance.

For non-infectious and accident cases the ambulance maintained jointly by Ely Urban and Ely Rural District Councils is used. The ambulance is not available for the conveyance of tuberculous patients to Sanatorium. The transport of these cases is arranged by the County Council.

Since the commencement of the war, six vehicles have been fitted out as ambulances which will be used in the event of casualties occurring as the result of air raids.

### NURSING IN THE HOME:-

Nursing in the home is carried out by 5 district nurses.

### HOSPITALS:-

Ely Urban & Rural Joint Isolation Hospital is available for treatment of cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. There is no accommodation for the treatment of cases of Measles or Whooping Cough, a number of which occurred in the Rural District during the year. For complicated cases of these diseases, accommodation must be found elsewhere.

### AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS:-

As a result of the war there has been established 10 First Aid Points in the Rural District. These will deal with casualties resulting from air raids if such casualties occur in the district.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

In November of last year Mr. A. H. Eagle, Sanitary Inspector, was called up for Military Service, with the result that the inspections of cowsheds and dairy premises under the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 were not carried out regularly. In 1939 an Additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed to the Rural District; since then the amount of Sanitary work has greatly increased, particularly so in recent years. It is regrettable that the Council should be without the services of one of its officers when he is most needed.





### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:-

No change has taken place in the system of sewage disposal.

### WATER SUPPLY:-

At the request of the Ministry of Health the Council agreed to install a chlorination plant. The plant was functioning satisfactorily in December. This was a precautionary measure to ensure the wholesomeness of the already existing abundant supply. Samples of water taken from the mains during the year proved on analysis to be satisfactory.

### HOUSING:-

Little can be said of activities under this heading, since the outbreak of war at the end of 1939 prevented the Council from proceeding with rehousing schemes, the planning of which had reached an advanced stage of preparation.

Owing to the great need for accommodation arising as a result of large scale evacuation, quite a number of dwellings, subject to Orders of Demolition, have been utilized for housing evacuee families. In most instances certain minor repairs and replacements have been necessary to make the dwellings reasonably comfortable.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES:-

Compared with 1939 there has been a decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified. 25 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. The majority of cases occurred during the first half of the year in Haddenham. It is regrettable to have to report that 3 deaths were recorded as occurring from this disease.

These figures show the importance of immunisation against Diphtheria. The fact that protection is not complete until 2 to 3 months after treatment, is sufficient to warn parents to have their children protected now and not to wait until cases are occurring in the district.

Diphtheria can be stamped out, but only with the co-operation of parents can it be eliminated from our villages.

Only 53% of the school children were immunised during the year. It should not have been necessary to do this. The children should have received their protection against this disease as soon as possible after their first year of age, yet only 16.45% of mothers consented to have their pre-school age children immunised.





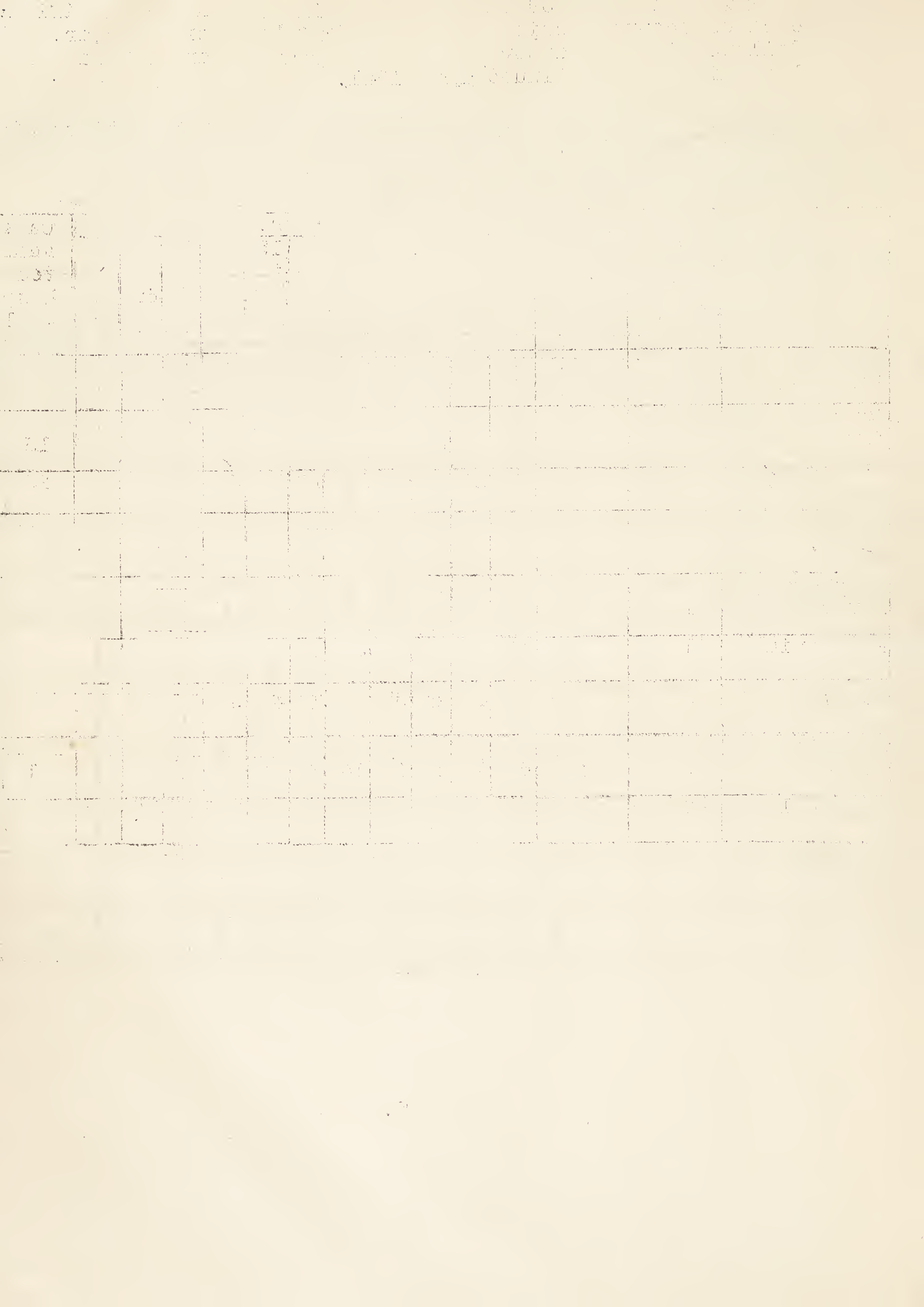
During the year 39 cases of Whooping Cough were notified; these cases occurred chiefly in the first half of the year. This was followed in the latter part of the year by an outbreak of Measles which was continued into 1941.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease in the Rural District.

Notifiable Diseases during 1940.

Notifiable Diseases during 1940.															
Disease	Total cases notified.	Age Groups.												Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over		
Smallpox															
Scarlet Fever.	13				2	1	9		1					13	
Diphtheria	25			1	2	2	5	10	1	3	1			25	3
Enteric Fever.															
Puerperal Fever	1									1					
Pneumonia	11		1			1	5	2			1	1			6
Measles	65		2	4	4	5	35	7	4	4					
Whooping Cough	39	2	6	4	5	4	14	4						1	
Erysipelas	2									1	1				





TUBERCULOSIS:-

Table showing incidence of Tuberculosis during 1940,

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ...								
1- ...	1.		4.	1.		1.	1.	1.
5- ...	3.		3.					
15- ...		4.				2.		
25- ...	2.							
35- ...						1.		
45- ...								
55- ...								
65 and upwards								
Totals.	6.	4.	7.	1.		4.	1.	1.

